



WASHOE COUNTY

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Grant Mgt. GE

STAFF REPORT

BOARD MEETING DATE: March 10, 2015

DATE: February 17, 2015
TO: Board of County Commissioners
FROM: Mary Herzik, District Court Family Services Manager
(775) 328-3299, mary.herzik@washoecourts.us
THROUGH: Jackie Bryant, District Court Administrator/Clerk of Court
(775) 328-3119, Jackie.Bryant@washoecourts.us

SUBJECT: Recommendation to the Board of County Commissioners to retroactively acknowledge the agreement to accept a direct grant award from Nevada Administrative Office of the Courts, Court Improvement Program Grant from the Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Family Services for "Dependency Mediation" in the amount of \$50,000 [33.33% in-kind match required] effective February 2, 2015 through January 15, 2016 and direct the Comptroller's Office to make the necessary budget adjustments [All Commission Districts].

SUMMARY

To continue to support the dependency mediation needs of the Second Judicial District Court and improve outcomes in juvenile dependency cases, the Second Judicial District Court has been awarded grant funds in the amount of \$50,000 (33.33% in-kind match required) for the period beginning February 2, 2015 through January 15, 2016, from the Nevada Administrative Office of the Courts, Court Improvement Program Grant from the Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Family Services. This grant is being accepted retroactively, as funding accompanied receipt of the grant award.

The County Priority/Goal supported by this item: Improve Public Safety, Security and Health.

PREVIOUS ACTION

The Board of County Commissioners has previously accepted such grants on behalf of the Second Judicial District Court. The District Court implemented a successful dependency mediation program from March 2006 through July 2007. In 2011, dependency mediation was reintroduced as a Model Court initiative.

AGENDA ITEM # 7D

The Board of County Commissioners previously accepted such grants on behalf of the Second Judicial District Court on July 12, 2011, agenda item 6F(1) for the initial grant award of \$85,000.

The Board of County Commissioners previously accepted such grants on behalf of the Second Judicial District Court on January 28, 2014, agenda item 7E(2) for a grant award of \$45,000.

BACKGROUND

Nevada's Court Improvement Program (CIP) is a multidisciplinary project which seeks to assess and improve court processes related to child abuse and neglect and ensure improved safety, permanence, and well-being for dependent children. The program operates through team-oriented court and agency initiatives. The goal of the CIP is to make these systems more effective. CIP enables the courts and agencies involved in the child welfare system to develop systemic, statewide changes to significantly improve the handling of child welfare cases, while ensuring compliance with state and federal laws regarding child dependency and child welfare matters.

The Dependency Mediation Program in the Second Judicial District Court started as a pilot project in 2011 with funding from the CIP. Two independent studies of the mediation program in Washoe County by the National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges have shown that mediation can be an important piece to improve outcomes for children and families.

Dependency mediation offers an alternative to litigation for parents and stakeholders in the child abuse and neglect court system. Instead of a contested hearing, mediation is used to facilitate a discussion where parties voluntarily address the issues that brought a family into the child protection system. The widely recognized best practice of court-based mediation in juvenile dependency cases is based on a very simple premise that a confidential conversation among all the parties may result in positive results. It provides both families and professionals with an opportunity to discuss disputed issues in a confidential, neutral setting and address what options are available given the status of the case with the assistance of an impartial third-party.

The grant will allow 100 dependency mediations to be provided over the grant period.

GRANT AWARD SUMMARY

Project/Program Name: Dependency Mediation

Scope of the Project: The Second Judicial District Court will continue the Dependency Mediation Program, which has served as a model for other jurisdictions in Nevada, and meets the obligations under Nevada Revised Statute Code Section 3.225 (1) to resolve Family Court disputes through non-adversarial methods where practical and appropriate. Juvenile dependency cases will be referred to mediation as an alternative method of dispute resolution, promoting voluntary case resolution of disputed issues.

Benefit to Washoe County Residents: Safe, Secure and Healthy Community.

On-Going Program Support: N/A

Award Amount: \$50,000

Grant Period: February 2, 2015 through January 15, 2016

Funding Source: Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Family Services

Pass through From: Nevada Administrative Office of the Courts

CFDA Number: 93.586

Grant ID Number: 15-429

Match Amount and Type: A 33.33% in-kind match is required for this grant. The percentage rate translates into \$16,665 in-kind required.

Indirect Cost Rate (applicable to the award):
N/A

Special Terms & Conditions: N/A

Sub-Awards and Contracts: N/A

FISCAL IMPACT

Should the board accept this grant award and approve these amendments, the adopted budget will be increased by \$50,000 in both revenues and expenditures in the following accounts:

Internal Order	G/L Account	Amount
IO #10956	431100 – Federal Grant Revenue	\$50,000.00
IO #10956	710100 – Professional Services	\$50,000.00

Funding for the in-kind match is available within the Court's existing budget.

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the Board of County Commissioners retroactively acknowledge the agreement to accept a direct grant award from Nevada Administrative Office of the Courts, Court Improvement Program Grant from the Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Family Services for "Dependency Mediation" in the amount of \$50,000 [33.33% in-kind match required] effective February 2, 2015

through January 15, 2016, and direct the Comptroller's Office to make the necessary budget adjustments [All Commission Districts].

POSSIBLE MOTION

Should the Board agree with staff's recommendation, a possible motion would be that the Board of County Commissioners retroactively acknowledge the agreement to accept a direct grant award from Nevada Administrative Office of the Courts, Court Improvement Program Grant from the Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Family Services for "Dependency Mediation" in the amount of \$50,000 [33.33% in-kind match required] effective February 2, 2015 through January 15, 2016, and direct the Comptroller's Office to make the necessary budget adjustments [All Commission Districts].

- cc. Jackie Bryant, District Court Administrator and Clerk of Court
- Cathy Hill, Court Fiscal Services Administrator
- Joey Orduna Hastings, Assistant County Manager
- David Watts-Vial, Deputy District Attorney
- Budget Agenda Coordinator
- Comptroller-Risk Division
- Grants Agenda Coordinator
- Agenda Coordinator